

Two new species of *Tarsonemus* (Acari: Tarsonemidae) associated with bark beetles (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) from Crimea, Ukraine

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Abstract

Two new species of mites of the genus *Tarsonemus* Can. & Fanz., 1876: *T. fraxini* n. sp. and *T. bistridentati* n. sp. are described and illustrated based on material from instars associated with bark beetles in Ukraine. The systematic position of new species and their host relationships are briefly discussed.

Keywords: *Tarsonemus*, Scolytidae, Ukraine, systematics, taxonomy

Introduction

Among the vast number of species in the genus *Tarsonemus* Canestrini et Fanzago 1876, two species groups are strongly associated with insects living in subcortical habitats. The *T. minimax* group has already been revised (Magowski & Moser, 2002), the other group is under an extensive revision (Magowski in prep.). The former is exclusively associated with bark beetles (Coleoptera: Scolytidae); the latter shows a wider array of hosts and habitats, and can tentatively be characterized as arboreal, and occasionally occupying other habitats, e.g. forest litter, decaying wood etc. Nevertheless, a majority of recorded species co-exist with bark beetles and may have an important role in the bark ecosystem.

The present paper presents descriptions of two new species associated with bark beetles in Crimea, Ukraine.